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ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION AND NOTICE OF HEARING

WHEREAS, Karen Palmer, RN (“Licensee”), is licensed to practice as a registered nurse in the State of South Dakota and holds license number R047702; and

WHEREAS, on or about July 25, 2017, the South Dakota Board of Nursing (“South Dakota Board”) received an Order from the Georgia Board of Nursing (“Georgia Board”) entitled Order of Summary Suspension (“Georgia Order”) in which the Licensee was ordered to undergo a mental/physical examination after the Georgia Board received information that Licensee had undergone treatment for drug and alcohol issues since the date of her last renewal of her nursing license; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Order indicated that Licensee was discharged from treatment due to noncompliance with the treatment program. She was also noncompliant with the aftercare program in which she had voluntarily enrolled. The Georgia Order indicated that the physician conducting the evaluations determined that the Licensee was not capable of practicing clinical nursing with reasonable skill and safety. Based upon the above, the Georgia Board determined that continued practice by the Licensee posed a threat to the public health, safety and welfare and

imperatively required emergency action. Consequently, the Georgia Board summarily suspended the Licensee and noticed her for an expedited hearing; and

WHEREAS, following receipt of this information, South Dakota Board staff began investigating said Licensee. The South Dakota Board's investigation showed that the Licensee had also been summarily suspended in the state of Wyoming in July 2017; and

WHEREAS, attempts to contact the Licensee using her last known mailing address resulted in the letter being returned. South Dakota Board staff attempted to contact the Licensee by phone, and were able to leave a message, but have not received a return call from Licensee; and

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2017, South Dakota Board staff received an 11-page fax from the Licensee at the South Dakota Board office providing a copy of her evaluation and a letter from a psychiatrist from Georgia dated August 23, 2017. Attempts to contact the Licensee by the South Dakota Board investigator at the number provided again went unanswered; and

WHEREAS, based upon the Affidavit of Francie Miller and the above stated conduct, the South Dakota Board has concluded that Licensee's actions constitute unprofessional conduct and require emergency action, in that Licensee's actions may endanger the health and safety of those who are or will be entrusted to her care in the future; and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Board, has a statutory obligation to protect the health, safety and welfare set forth in SDCL §36-9, including the protection of the public from unsafe nursing practices and practitioners.

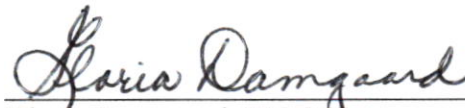
NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. That the South Dakota Board has jurisdiction of the Licensee and the subject matter of this Order.
2. That based on the above, the South Dakota Board specifically finds that the actions of the Licensee endanger the public health, safety and welfare, and imperatively require emergency action in that Licensee may endanger the health and safety of those persons who are or will be entrusted to her care in the future and that these are matters of a nature that would constitute further grounds for discipline of her license to practice nursing under SDCL § 36-9-49 (4), (6), (7) and (10).
3. Based upon these findings, Licensee's license to practice nursing in South Dakota is hereby summarily suspended. Licensee may petition according to SDCL § 36-9-57 for reinstatement of her license at any time for "good cause."
4. Licensee is hereby notified that any practice of or holding herself out as a registered nurse during the terms of this Order for Summary Suspension is a violation of SDCL § 36-9-68.
5. This action is reportable discipline and will be published in the South Dakota Board's newsletter and posted on its website and reported into the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) as required by law.

The South Board of Nursing met on the 21st day of September, 2017, and approved this Order for Summary Suspension by a vote of 7-0, and issues its Order for Summary Suspension consistent herein as follows:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above is adopted as an Order of the South Dakota Board of Nursing this 16th day of October, 2017.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING



Gloria Damgaard, RN, MS
Executive Director

NOTICE OF HEARING

The South Dakota Board of Nursing ("Board") pursuant to SDCL §§ 1-26-16, 1-26-27, and 1-26-29, hereby provides this Notice of Hearing to Karen Palmer, License No. R047702 ("Licensee") as follows:

1. Hearing on the Order of Summary Suspension will take place before the Board on November 16, 2017, at 1:30 p.m. at the office of the South Dakota Board of Nursing, 4305 S. Louise Avenue, Suite 201, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.
2. This matter is an adversarial proceeding and Licensee has the right to be present at the hearing and to be represented by an attorney. These due process rights will be forfeited if they are not exercised at the hearing.
3. The hearing will address the Board's assertion, as set forth in its Summary Suspension, that the Licensee, by her conduct, violated SDCL § 36-9-49 (4), (6), (7) and (10).

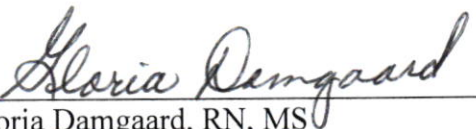
4. At the hearing, the Board will determine whether the Licensee's license shall be suspended, revoked or subject to other disciplinary action as determined by the evidence presented.

5. Licensee has a right to request that the agency use the Office of Hearing Examiners for this proceeding by giving notice of the request to the Board no later than ten (10) days after the service of this Notice of Hearing on Order for Summary Suspension.

6. A decision issued by the Board after the hearing may be appealed to the circuit court and to the state Supreme Court as provided by law.

Dated this 16th day of October, 2017.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING



Gloria Damgaard, RN, MS
Executive Director